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# **COLORADO CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA**

## **Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement**

### **CHAPTER 5—CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION**

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#### **5.1 Introduction**

This Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area (CCNCA) represents extensive collaboration with and input from interested individuals, organizations, local and state governments, and other federal agencies. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) ensures the public's involvement in the decision-making process, as well as allowing for full environmental disclosure. The *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) is a codification of the general and permanent rules published in the *Federal Register* by the Executive departments and agencies of the federal government. CFR Title 40, Chapter 5, 1506.6, provides guidance to federal agencies for effectively involving the public in preparing NEPA documents.

Under NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, federal agencies are required to consider the environmental impacts of their proposed actions prior to taking action. Actions that are subject to NEPA include those involving federal funding, facilities, and equipment; those requiring federal permits; and those affecting federal employees. Any actions proposed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as part of this RMP and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being developed for the CCNCA are subject to NEPA requirements.

Public involvement for the CCNCA RMP is occurring in two phases:

- Public scoping prior to NEPA analysis to obtain public input on issues and proposed alternatives, and
- Public review and comment on the Draft RMP/EIS, which includes analyzing possible environmental impacts and identifying the preferred alternative.

In lieu of a formal and fixed public scoping comment period, the BLM chose to practice community-based planning through Working Groups. Throughout this scoping and collaborative process, which officially began in December 2001, the CCNCA Citizen Advisory Council and Working Groups composed of the various user groups met with BLM extensively to discuss resource and management issues, took numerous field trips facilitating better insight into the issues, and then worked together in developing a spectrum of recommendations for resolving the issues.

From Working Group recommendations and general public comment evolved four alternatives covering a range of reasonable combinations of resource uses and management practices. These alternatives were formally presented to the CCNCA Advisory Council in late winter 2003.

## 5.2 Public Scoping Activities

The objectives of public scoping prior to NEPA analysis are to:

- Invite individuals, organizations, local and state governments, and other federal agencies to participate;
- Identify a preliminary list of environmental and socioeconomic issues to address in the NEPA document; and
- Identify and eliminate issues determined to be insignificant.

### 5.2.1 Notice of Intent

The scoping process for the CCNCA began on December 12, 2001, with publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register (Appendix 2). With this, the public was officially notified of the BLM's intent to develop a plan for those BLM-managed lands lying within the CCNCA. This Notice of Intent also solicited public comments.

### 5.2.2 Project Web Site

The CCNCA RMP/EIS web site was launched in December 2002 as a public outreach tool and can be accessed at [www.co.blm.gov/cocanplan](http://www.co.blm.gov/cocanplan). The web site provides background information about the project, a map of the planning area and its zones, a public meeting calendar, copies of public information documents such as meeting minutes and the CCNCA Land Health Assessment, and both internal and external links to relevant web sites. A link is also available for submitting comments about the project. Through this method of communication, the public is able to digest information at an individual pace and respond when convenient for them.

### 5.2.3 Newsletter

Another key component in communicating with interested parties regarding the CCNCA planning effort and related activities was a quarterly newsletter distributed via first-class mail. Volume 1, Issue 1, was mailed in January 2003, and provided a status update on

the planning process, an explanation about planning criteria, as well as a map showing the planning zones. Volume 1, Issue 2, was distributed on June 24, 2003, and not only included a status update but also briefings on plan alternatives and RMP-related activities such as tours conducted for the new BLM Colorado State Director and BLM Director. Volume 1, Issue 3, will be completed for distribution in conjunction with the release of the draft RMP/EIS. Each issue also informs the reader of upcoming events and invites comments as well. The CCNCA mailing list contains approximately 450 contacts, which include federal, state, and local elected officials, federally recognized tribes, property owners in and near the CCNCA, individuals, special interest groups, and organizations.

#### 5.2.4 Advertisements and Announcements

Newspaper announcements, press releases, presentations, and featured media spots have been used to notify and inform the public of project activities (Appendix 3).

#### 5.2.5 Public Scoping Meetings

Along with numerous open houses held in communities in close proximity to the planning area, an intensive schedule of meetings, field trips, presentations, event exhibits, and training was maintained throughout the planning process (see Table 5-1). The open houses provided the public with an opportunity to receive information, ask questions, and offer input. All public outreach activities were scheduled with the intent to encourage public participation through extended and/or convenient dates and times. Collaboration, among the diverse individuals and organizations participating in the planning process with the BLM, was strengthened by both one-on-one interactions as well as in group settings. Attendees have had the opportunity to view exhibits and presentations on the CCNCA, covering both general and resource specific items, at various events. Chosen venues, including the BLM conference room and civic and community centers, ensure accessibility for the disabled and also encourage a broader participation through the diverse venue settings. Cooperative agreements have been executed between BLM and several other agencies, including the Department of Natural Resource, Colorado Division of Wildlife, and Bureau of Reclamation. BLM also benefits from working closely with the city of Fruita, Mesa County-Colorado, the National Park Service/Colorado National Monument (COLM), and the BLM Moab Field Office (Utah). Both the COLM and BLM Moab resources share common boundaries with the CCNCA.

**Table 5-1**  
**Schedule of Colorado Canyons NCA Meetings and Field Trips**

| <b>JANUARY 2002</b>  |  |
|----------------------|--|
| January 14-18        | Training: "Successful Land Use Planning"<br>Washington, State, and Field Office personnel                        |
| January 22           | CCNCA Planning Open House, Grand Junction  |
| January 24           | Western Colorado Tourism Council Meeting   |
| January 29           | Quiet Trails Coalition Meeting   |
| <b>FEBRUARY 2002</b> |  |
| February 5-7         | Cooperative Involvement in Colorado National<br>Monument Scoping Meetings -Glade Park,<br>Fruita, Grand Junction |
| February 11          | CCNCA Planning Open House, Fruita  |
| February 14          | Initial Advisory Council Meeting   |
| February 19          | Presentation to Grand County, Utah, Council  |
| February 22          | Presentation to Mesa County Commissioners  |
| February 27          | Gateway Community Workshop   |
| February 28          | Working Group Membership Open House  |
| <b>MARCH 2002</b>    |  |
| March 12-14          | Training: Community-Based Partnership for<br>Stakeholders  |
| March 11             | Initial Wilderness Working Group Meeting   |
| March 12             | Initial River Working Group Meeting  |
| March 13             | Initial Mack Ridge Working Group Meeting   |
| March 14             | Advisory Council Meeting   |
| March 18             | Initial Rabbit Valley Working Group Meeting  |
| March 19             | Wilderness Working Group   |
| March 21             | Mack Ridge Working Group   |
| March 26             | River Corridor Working Group   |
| <b>APRIL 2002</b>    |  |
| April 1              | Colorado National Monument Cooperating<br>Association Meeting  |
| April 1              | Rabbit Valley Working Group  |
| April 2              | Wilderness Workshop-Working Group and<br>Public  |
| April 3              | Meeting with Backcountry Horseman's<br>Association   |
| April 4              | Mack Ridge Working Group   |
| April 7              | Rabbit Valley Working Group-Field Trip; Rabbit<br>Valley Recreation Area   |
| April 8              | Rabbit Valley Working Group  |
| April 9              | Interagency Collaboration Session with<br>Representatives of Ute Tribes  |
| April 9              | River Corridor Working Group   |
| April 11             | Advisory Council Meeting-McInnis Staff<br>Briefing and Telecon   |
| April 12             | River Corridor Working Group-Field Trip;<br>Colorado River   |
| April 13             | Wilderness Working Group-Field Trip:<br>Wilderness Front Country   |
| April 16             | Meeting with Mesa County Planning<br>Department  |
| April 16             | Wilderness Working Group   |

**Table 5-1**  
**Schedule of Colorado Canyons NCA Meetings and Field Trips**

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| April 18         | Mack Ridge Working Group  |
| April 20         | Wilderness Working Field Trip-Wilderness Backcountry  |
| April 22         | Rabbit Valley Working Group   |
| April 23         | River Corridor Working Group  |
| April 23         | Meeting with Mesa County Planning Department  |
| April 24         | City of Fruita Planning Meeting/Tour  |
| April 30         | BLM State Office Planning Briefing  |
| April 30         | Mack Ridge Working Group Field Trip-East Mack Ridge   |
| <b>MAY 2002</b>  |   |
| May 2            | Tour of CCNCA with Congressman McInnis's staff  |
| May 6            | Planning Meeting with Moab (UT) Field Office  |
| May 6            | Presentation to Mack Area Community Council   |
| May 9            | Advisory Council Meeting<br>-Great Sand Dunes National Monument Mgr.<br>-Colorado Department of Natural Resources |
| May 9            | Meeting with Sierra Club  |
| May 9            | Grand Junction Travel Expo Exhibit  |
| May 13           | Rabbit Valley Working Group   |
| May 14           | Briefing to Grand Junction Departments of Planning, Development, and Visitor & Convention Bureau                  |
| May 16           | Mack Ridge Working Group  |
| May 21           | Wilderness Working Group  |
| May 21           | Meeting with Colorado Division of Wildlife  |
| May 22           | Initial Consultation Meeting with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  |
| May 23           | Presentation on CCNCA Plan to Community Economic Development Strategy Session                                     |
| May 28           | River Corridor Working Group  |
| May 30           | Mack Ridge Working Group Field Trip-West Mack Ridge   |
| May 30           | Training: Sonoran Institute Economic Profile System   |
| <b>JUNE 2002</b> |   |
| June 4           | Wilderness Working Group  |
| June 13          | Advisory Council Meeting<br>-Moab Field Office<br>-U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)                                  |
| June 18-19       | Representatives of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation Visit CCNCA   |
| June 18          | Wilderness Working Group  |
| June 25-27       | Support to Colorado National Monument Public Meetings   |
| June 27          | Mack Ridge Working Group  |

**Table 5-1**  
**Schedule of Colorado Canyons NCA Meetings and Field Trips**

| <b>JULY 2002</b>      |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| July 2                | Wilderness Working Group  |
| July 8                | Rabbit Valley Working Group   |
| July 9                | Meeting with Colorado Department of Natural Resources to draft Cooperating Agency Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding |
| July 10               | Meeting with Mesa County Commissioners  |
| July 11               | Advisory Council Meeting<br>-Socioeconomic Profile of Mesa County   |
| July 15               | Mack Ridge Working Group Field Trip   |
| July 18-19            | Benefits-Based Management Training (BBM)<br>CCNCA staff and Advisory Council  |
| July 18               | BBM Workshop-Advisory Council and Working Group Members   |
| July 26               | Advisory Council Field Trip-Wilderness Front Country and Mack Ridge   |
| July 30               | Glenwood Springs Field Office-Land Exchange Meeting   |
| July 30               | Wilderness Working Group  |
| July 31               | Initial Consultation with Ute Indians of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation   |
| <b>AUGUST 2002</b>    |   |
| August 2              | Execution of Memorandum of Understanding with Colorado Department of Natural Resources                                      |
| August 3              | Advisory Council Field Trip-River Corridor Working Group  |
| August 5              | Mack Ridge Working Group  |
| August 6              | Rabbit Valley Working Group   |
| August 8              | Advisory Council Meeting  |
| August 17             | Advisory Council Field Trip-Glade Park  |
| August 20             | Congressman McInnis's Staff Tour of CCNCA   |
| August 27             | Wilderness Working Group Field Trip   |
| <b>SEPTEMBER 2002</b> |   |
| September 3           | Wilderness Working Group Meeting  |
| September 9           | Grant Writing Training-CCNCA Staff, Advisory Council, and Partners  |
| September 9           | Rabbit Valley Working Group Meeting   |
| September 12          | Advisory Council Meeting  |
| September 16          | Mack Ridge Working Group Meeting  |
| September 17          | Wilderness Working Group Meeting  |
| September 19          | Colorado State Planners-CCNCA Planning Seminar  |
| September 23          | Great Old Broads for the Wilderness-Briefing on CCNCA   |
| September 26          | Consultation with Southern Ute Tribe  |
| September 26          | Great Old Broads for the Wilderness-Briefing on CCNCA   |
| September 28          | Advisory Council Field Trip-Rabbit Valley   |

**Table 5-1  
Schedule of Colorado Canyons NCA Meetings and Field Trips**

| <b>OCTOBER 2002</b>   |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| October 7             | Mack Ridge Working Group                                    |
| October 10            | Advisory Council Meeting                                    |
| October 15            | Rabbit Valley Working Group                                 |
| October 22-23         | BLM Planning Workshop                                       |
| October 28            | Mack Ridge Working Group Visioning                          |
| October 29            | Wilderness Working Group Visioning                          |
| <b>NOVEMBER 2002</b>  |   |
| November 6            | Grand Mesa Jeep Club Coordination Meeting                   |
| November 12           | Mack Ridge Working Group Visioning Exercise                 |
| November 14           | Advisory Council Meeting                                    |
| November 18           | Rabbit Valley Visioning                                     |
| <b>DECEMBER 2002</b>  |   |
| December 3            | Briefing to Mesa County Inter-Agency Government Meeting     |
| <b>JANUARY 2003</b>   |   |
| January 9             | Advisory Council Meeting                                    |
| January 14            | Coordination Meeting with Colorado National Monument Staff  |
| January 23            | River Corridor Working Group Meeting                        |
| <b>FEBRUARY 2003</b>  |   |
| February 6            | Advisory Council Meeting                                    |
| February 21           | Wilderness Front Country (Urban Interface) Meeting          |
| February 28           | Wilderness Front Country (Urban Interface) Meeting          |
| <b>MARCH 2003</b>     |   |
| March 6               | Advisory Council Meeting                                    |
| March 7               | Wilderness Front Country (Urban Interface) Meeting          |
| March 10              | BLM Moab Planning Team                                      |
| March 17              | Meeting with COLM Management                                |
| March 27              | Planning Update to Colorado Department of Natural Resources |
| <b>APRIL 2003</b>     |   |
| April 3               | Advisory Council Meeting                                    |
| <b>MAY 2003</b>       |   |
| May 1                 | Public Open House on RMP/EIS                                |
| May 17                | Briefing to Colorado Plateau River Guides                   |
| May 29                | Meeting with BLM Moab Planning Team                         |
| <b>JUNE 2003</b>      |   |
| June 5                | Briefing to BLM Director Clarke                             |
| June 5                | Advisory Council Meeting                                    |
| June 9-12             | Interdisciplinary Team Impact Analysis                      |
| June 26               | Briefing to Secretary of the Interior Norton                |
| June 30               | Float trip with Local Media                                 |
| <b>AUGUST 2003</b>    |   |
| August 7              | Advisory Council Meeting                                    |
| <b>SEPTEMBER 2003</b> |   |
| September 4           | Advisory Council Meeting                                    |



| <b>Table 5-1</b>   |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| <b>Schedule of Colorado Canyons NCA Meetings and Field Trips</b> |                            |
| <b>OCTOBER 2003</b>  |                            |
| October 2  | Advisory Council Meeting   |
| <b>OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE CONTACT ACTIVITIES</b>                    |                            |
| May 2002   | National Rifle Association |
| November 2002  | Grand Mesa Jeep Club       |
| February 2003  | Boy Scouts of America      |
| Motorcycle Trail Riders Association (6 meetings)                 |                            |
| Bookcliff Rattlers Motorcycle Association (8 meetings)           |                            |
| Western Slope ATV Association (3 meetings)                       |                            |
| Mesa County Transportation Board (4 meetings)                    |                            |
| Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition (8 meetings)              |                            |

### 5.3 Citizen Advisory Council and Working Groups

In recognition of the local community's historic involvement in public land management, the Act included specific language directing the BLM to incorporate a Citizen's Advisory Council as an integral element in the RMP/EIS planning process and plan implementation. The CCNCA Advisory Council is composed of ten members from the local community, appointed by the Secretary of the Interior (see Table 5-2). The Advisory Council meets monthly, and all meetings are open to the public.

| <b>Table 5-2</b>                        |                 |                                     |
|---|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Citizen Advisory Council Members</b> |                 |                                     |
| <b>Name</b>                             | <b>Location</b> | <b>Interest</b>                     |
| Ken Currey                              | Fruita          | Northwest Resource Advisory Council |
| Art Donoho                              | Fruita          | Public-at-Large                     |
| John Foster                             | Grand Junction  | Public-at-Large                     |
| Doralyn Genova                          | Grand Junction  | County Official                     |
| Warren Gore, Chairman                   | Glade Park      | Federal Grazing                     |
| Doug Hall                               | Fruita          | Public-at-Large                     |
| Joe Keys                                | Clifton         | Public-at-Large                     |
| Dan Rosenthal                           | Grand Junction  | Public-at-Large                     |
| Bob Silbernagel, Vice Chair             | Palisade        | Public-at-Large                     |
| Russ Walker                             | Grand Junction  | Public-at-Large                     |

To facilitate the work of the Advisory Council, the CCNCA was divided into four planning zones with Working Groups established for each of the zones (see Figure 1-1 and Table 5-3). These Working Groups do not have a decision-making, voting, or official advisory role, nor are the participants pressured to reach consensus, but the knowledge and input

the group members provide proved invaluable to the successful development of this RMP and will continue to do so during the implementation as well. After an intense meeting schedule throughout the planning process, Working Groups meet as necessary to assist the BLM.

The planning zones and representative activities in the CCNCA are:

- (1) The Wilderness Zone – hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, grazing, and hunting.
- (2) The Rabbit Valley Zone – off-highway vehicle (OHV) riding, hiking, Native American rock art viewing, camping, wildlife viewing, mountain bike riding, horseback riding, and grazing.
- (3) The River Corridor Zone – boating, hiking, and camping.
- (4) The Mack Ridge Zone – mountain bike riding and horseback riding.

| <b>Table 5-3</b>             |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Working Group Members</b> |                |
| Mack Ridge Zone              |                |
| Name                         | Location       |
| John Foster                  | Grand Junction |
| Dan Rosenthal                | Grand Junction |
| Bob Anthony                  | Grand Junction |
| Clare Bastable               | Grand Junction |
| Leonard Bagwell              | Loma           |
| Nadja Brozina                | Grand Junction |
| Tommy Collins                | Grand Junction |
| Kevin Foote, Group Leader    | Grand Junction |
| Pat Kennedy                  | Grand Junction |
| Tom Lucks                    | Mack           |
| Neal McKinstry               | Fruita         |
| Clark Rieves                 | Grand Junction |
| Connie Rosenthal             | Grand Junction |
| Lovell Sasser                | Mack           |
| Rabbit Valley Zone           |                |
| Name                         | Location       |
| Ken Currey                   | Fruita         |
| Art Donoho                   | Fruita         |
| Bob Silbernagel              | Grand Junction |
| Sue Benjamin                 | Grand Junction |
| Tom Boni                     | Eagle          |
| Nadja Brozina                | Grand Junction |
| Arleta Carr                  | Grand Junction |
| Kathy Click                  | Grand Junction |
| Mike Click                   | Grand Junction |
| David Dunsmoor               | Grand Junction |
| David Farny                  | Mack           |

**Table 5-3  
Working Group Members**

|                              |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| N. J. Fulmer                 | Grand Junction |
| Chris Joufflas               | Grand Junction |
| Pete Joufflas                | Grand Junction |
| Chris Long                   | Collbran       |
| Dave Long                    | Collbran       |
| Rabbit Valley Zone continued |                |
| Name                         | Location       |
| Celeste Marsh                | Grand Junction |
| Neal McKinstry               | Fruita         |
| Warren Petersen              | Palisade       |
| John Potter, Group Leader    | Loma           |
| Shari Raso                   | Palisade       |
| Eric Rechel                  | Grand Junction |
| Steve Renstrom               | Grand Junction |
| Roland Reynolds              |                |
| Lovell Sasser                | Mack           |
| Gary Shaw                    | Grand Junction |
| Charlie Sweet                | Grand Junction |
| Paul Toft                    | Grand Junction |
| River Corridor Zone          |                |
| Name                         | Location       |
| Doug Hall                    | Fruita         |
| Joe Keys                     | Clifton        |
| Russ Walker, Group Leader    | Grand Junction |
| Travis Baier                 | Grand Junction |
| Lowell Clark                 |                |
| Jonathon Cooley              |                |
| Dick Cozza                   | Grand Junction |
| Shaun Deeney                 | Grand Junction |
| Matt Dible                   | Grand Junction |
| Mike Dirsmith                | Grand Junction |
| Walter Fees                  | Grand Junction |
| Ken Fulmer                   | Grand Junction |
| Ted Howell                   | Grand Junction |
| Denny Huffman                | Grand Junction |
| Gary Hunt                    |                |
| Tom Kleinschultz             | Grand Junction |
| Pete Kolbensschlag           | Grand Junction |
| Scott Larsen                 | Grand Junction |
| Jim Majors                   | Fruita         |
| Paul Merluzzi                | Loma           |
| Jerry Nolan                  | Grand Junction |
| Mark Peterson                | Grand Junction |
| Trish Soldberg               | Grand Junction |
| Matt Sura                    | Grand Junction |
| Greg Trainor                 | Grand Junction |
| Clay Urban                   | Grand Junction |
| Neville Woodruff             | Grand Junction |
| Wilderness Zone              |                |

**Table 5-3  
Working Group Members**

| Name                        | Location       |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Doralyn Genova              | Grand Junction |
| Warren Gore                 | Glade Park     |
| Joe Keys                    | Clifton        |
| Duane Carr                  | Grand Junction |
| Belle Chesnick              | Glade Park     |
| Wilderness Zone continued   |                |
| Name                        | Location       |
| Shaun Deeney                | Grand Junction |
| Mike Dirsmith               | Grand Junction |
| Greg Gador                  | Grand Junction |
| Terry Gray                  | Glade Park     |
| Bill Hamman                 | Grand Junction |
| Dave Hawks                  | Grand Junction |
| Ted Howell                  | Grand Junction |
| Jim Majors                  | Fruita         |
| Celeste Marsh               | Grand Junction |
| Rod Martinez                | Grand Junction |
| Neal McKinstry              | Fruita         |
| Brian Moore                 | Grand Junction |
| Warren Peterson             | Palisade       |
| David Price                 | Fruita         |
| Shari Raso                  | Palisade       |
| Eric Rechel                 | Grand Junction |
| Bill Schapley, Group Leader | Grand Junction |
| Bob Sherrill                | Fruita         |
| Harold Snyder               | Glade Park     |

During the initial Working Group meetings, an overview was presented on the existing resource conditions and management in a particular planning zone. Each of the Working Groups then developed what they thought to be the key issues and opportunities for their specific planning zones. Field trips to the areas allowed the groups a firsthand look at the resource, enabling more productive discussions on resolving issues and in turn strengthening the RMP. Prior to the Working Groups presenting their recommendations to the Advisory Group, visioning sessions were held for the participants of each Working Group in an effort to forge a comprehensive view and direction for future management of the respective planning zones.

The public was invited to an open house in May 2003 and provided the opportunity to see the results of the CCNCA Advisory Council and Working Groups. The BLM not only used this time to share information about the CCNCA and the progress of the draft RMP with Grand Valley citizens but also afforded the public the benefit of one-on-one exchange with BLM Interdisciplinary Team resource experts and other stakeholders in the project.

#### 5.4 Public Review and Comment on the Draft RMP/EIS

Following the initial phase of public scoping, the official public comment period on the CCNCA Draft RMP/EIS opened upon publication of the draft document in October 2003. The BLM, however, welcomes public input at any time during this planning process.

The BLM distributed a postcard notification and inquiry via first-class mail to approximately 450 contacts on the CCNCA mailing list, announcing the availability of the draft RMP/EIS in various media formats. The CCNCA mailing list includes federal, state, and local elected officials, federally recognized tribes, property owners in and near the CCNCA, individuals, special interest groups, and organizations. Availability of the draft RMP/EIS was also announced by publishing notices in local newspapers and the *Federal Register*, as well as on the project web site ([www.co.blm.gov/cocanplan](http://www.co.blm.gov/cocanplan)). Volume 1, Issue 3, of the CCNCA newsletter, distributed on a quarterly basis for this planning process, will include a discussion on the October 2003 release of the draft RMP/EIS. The Citizen Advisory Council and Working Groups, composed of approximately 120 individuals, were notified by e-mail of the publication of the draft RMP/EIS.

The draft RMP/EIS was provided for public review by bound paper or CD-ROM format upon request, and posted for review or downloading on the project web site. Copies were also available for review at local community libraries.

Along with the monthly Advisory Council meetings in which the public is invited, public open houses will be held, from October 2003 to January 2004, during the 90-day public comment period.

Upon conclusion of the public comment period, all comments received are reviewed and considered, and the draft RMP/EIS revised. A proposed Final RMP/EIS will then be published, with the document's availability announced in the *Federal Register*. A 30-day public protest period will follow, and any individual considering protesting the proposed plan may meet with the BLM to discuss his or her protest concerns. The BLM Colorado State Director will evaluate and resolve any protests upon closure of the 30-day public protest period. After protests are resolved, the BLM Colorado State Director will publish the approved final RMP and Record of Decision (ROD) and announce its availability in the *Federal Register*.